

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

USMISSION NATO

USNMR SHAPE

CINCEUR

UNCLAS ANKARA 9405

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR TU UR

SUBJ: PRESS TREATMENT OF UPCOMING VISIT OF KOSYGIN

1. TURKISH PRESS COVERAGE OF PREPARATIONS FOR SOVIET  
PREMIER KOSYGIN'S VISIT HAS BEEN LOW KEY AND GENERALLY  
STRAIGHT FORWARD. MOST DECEMBER 26 DAILIES REPORT  
IMPENDING VISIT IN FACTUAL STORIES ON FRONT PAGE, ALTHOUGH  
COVERAGE OF A MAJOR FIRE IN ISTANBUL RELEGATED STORY TO  
INSIDE PAGES OF MASS CIRCULATION PAPERS HURRIYET,  
GUNAYDIN AND MILLIYET. DECEMBER 25 COVERAGE IN MOST  
PAPERS WAS LIMITED TO A SMALL STORY REPORTING KOSYGIN  
WOULD MEET WITH OPPOSITION REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY  
(RPP) CHAIRMAN BULENT ECEVIT DURING HIS FOUR DAY STAY  
IN TURKEY.

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2. A FEW PAPERS HAVE PRINTED STORIES SPECULATING ON WHAT TURKEY MIGHT BE SEEKING FROM KOSYGIN. AYRINTILI HABER AND GUNAYDIN DECEMBER 24 SUGGESTED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRACTOR FACTORY AND SOVIET ASSISTANCE IN PETROLEUM EXPLORATION WOULD BE AMONG THE TOPICS DISCUSSED DURING THE VISIT. AYRINTILI HABER DECEMBER 26 LINKS THE KOSYGIN VISIT WITH THAT OF CZECHOSLOVAK PREMIER STROUGAL (REPORTEDLY SCHEDULED FOR EARLY JANUARY) JND ASSERTS THAT PRIMIN DEMIREL IS STRIVING TO BECOME KNOWN AS THE TURKISH PRIME MINISTER WHO ESTABLISHED GOOD RELATIONS WITH WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES.

3. THE MOST EXTENSIVE TREATMENT GIVEN KOSYGIN'S VISIT IS A FULL BACK PAGE SPREAD IN DECEMBER 26 EDITION OF LEFTIST POLITIKA. ARTICLES INCLUDEN HISTORY OF TURKISH-SOVIET RELATIONS AND A BIOGRAPHY OF KOSYGIN. THEY ARE ACCOMPANIED BY AN EDITORIAL WHICH SUGGESTS THAT THE TIMING OF THE VISIT -- DURING A PERIOD OF DETENTE, OF DETERIORATING US-TURKISH RELATIONS, OF A SEARCH BY TURKEY FOR FOREIGN POLICY ALTERNATIVES -- GIVES IT A SPECIAL IMPORTANCE. MASS CIRCULATION HURRIYET IN AN EDITORIAL DECEMBER 26 GIVES GENERAL SUPPORT FOR EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION BUT WARNS THAT THIS PURSUIT OF BETTER RELATIONS MUST BE UNDERTAKEN WITH APPROPRIATE CAUTION.  
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